(b) There has been no increase in the excise duty on kerosene and, therefore, the question of loss to Government does not arise.

Protection of registered trade marks and patent rights

2715. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that the existing laws to protect Trade Marks and Patent are not adequate to discourage duplication of various products and substandard products in name of registered trade marks;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the lacunae in law and inadequate protection, spending on research by industries is discouraged; if so, what steps Government are considering to take to make the law effective; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a parallel production of spurious electrical goods in the name of standard products causing risk to life and fire hazards; if so, what action Government are proposing to take to project the consumer against such spurious goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The existing laws relating to Trade Marks and Patents contain adequate provisions to cunter infringement of registered trade mark and patent rights. The Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, also provides for criminal action against offences such as falsification of trade marks, selling goods to which a false trade mark or false trade description is applied.

(b) There is no evidence to indicate that the existing laws have discouraged R&D in industries.

(c) In order to improve the quality of household electrical appliances, the Household Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 1981 was issued on 12-11-1981 in exercise of the powers under Section 8 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of household electrical appliances which do not conform standards specified for them. This order covered a total of 40 items including switches, plugs and sockets. Subsequently, in order to make quality control for household electrical appliances more effective, compulsory ISI marking has been introduced for 7 items including switches, plugs and sockets, vide the Electrical Appliances (Quality (Controy) Order, 1987 issued on 8th April, 1987.

Dropping of Proceedings under para 7(2) of DPCO

2716. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1251 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry has obtained any legal opinion before dropping proceedings under Para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979 against HAL & IDPL;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is taking the same decision in respect of other manufacturers; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Approval of appropriate authority has been obtained for dropping the proceedings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no justification for taking such a decision in other cases.